

Amendment Dated February 17, 2009

Reply to Final Office Action of December 15, 2008

**Amendments to the Claims:** This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A spoked wheel for use with a tire comprising, a rim with a plurality of holes for a respective plurality of nipples, and an equal plurality of spokes secured to said rim by means of said nipples, said nipples being arranged to be fitted so as to be substantially gastight by screwing into the respective holes in the rim for the purpose of fitting tubeless tires to the rim, and said nipples and the holes receiving them on said rim have a taper gas thread in sections where they fit together.
2. (Previously Presented) A spoked wheel for use with a tire comprising, a rim with a plurality of holes for a respective plurality of nipples and an equal plurality of spokes secured to said rim by means of said nipples, and each nipple is fitted so as to be substantially gastight into the respective hole in the rim and retained in said hole by axial bidirectional locking means.
3. (Withdrawn) A wheel according to claim 1, wherein said rim is adapted such that the plurality of nipples face into an inflation chamber of the tire.
4. (Withdrawn) A wheel according to claim 1 further comprising sealing means disposed adjacent the thread of the holes in said rim and the thread on the shank of said nipples.
5. (Withdrawn) A wheel according to claim 4 in which said sealing means comprises adhesives or sealants.
6. (Withdrawn) A wheel according to claim 4 in which said sealing means comprises a seal.
7. (Withdrawn) A wheel according to claim 1 in which said nipples comprise a hole into which a respective threaded end of a stem of the spoke is screwed and retained.
8. (Withdrawn) A wheel according to claim 1 in which said nipples comprise a threaded stem screwed into and retained in a respective threaded hole made in the end of the spoke facing them.
9. (Withdrawn) A wheel according to claim 1 in which said spoke has a light alloy stem.

10. (Withdrawn) A wheel according to claim 1 in which said spoke has a steel stem.
11. (Withdrawn) A wheel according to claim 4 in which a seating for a seal is made in the shank of said nipples.
12. (Withdrawn) A wheel according to claim 11 in which said seating for a seal is made in an intermediate position on said threaded section and said seal provides sealing on the thread of the hole in the rim.
13. (Withdrawn) A wheel according to claim 11 in which said seal comprises an O-ring .
14. (Withdrawn) A wheel according to claim 8 in which the spoke is held abutted against the nipple as an extension of it.
15. (Withdrawn) A wheel according to claim 1 in which the nipple has a blind axial hole running through it.
16. (Withdrawn) A wheel according to claim 1 in which said nipple has a head shaped to provide a key feature for driving the nipple.
17. (Currently Amended) A wheel according to claim 2 in which said axial bidirectional locking means comprises a shoulder at one end of the shank of the nipple and also a thread on the shank of the nipple which engage with a female thread disposed in the rim to hold said nipple on the rim with said shoulder abutting against said rim.
18. (Previously Presented) A wheel according to claim 17 further comprising a seal fitted onto the shank of the nipple close to said shoulder.
19. (Previously Presented) A wheel according to claim 18 in which a seating coaxial with the hole and adapted for fitting said seal is arranged in the hole in the rim.
20. (Previously Presented) A wheel according to claim 19 in which said seating has a substantially cylindrical wall and forms an abutment for said shoulder.
21. (Currently Amended) A wheel according to claim 17-claim 2 in which said axial bidirectional locking means comprises a shoulder at one end of the shank of the nipple and also a thread on the shank of the nipple which engage the rim to hold said nipple on the rim with said shoulder abutting against said rim in which said female thread is made in a nut screwed onto the shank of the nipple to grip said rim between said nut and said shoulder.

22. (Withdrawn) A wheel according to claim 1 in which surfaces facing each other between said nipple and a larger-diameter part of a stem of the spoke are held apart by the formation of a space between them.
23. (Withdrawn) A wheel according to claim 22 in which a deformable seal is inserted in said space.
24. (Withdrawn) A wheel according to claim 1 in which each nipple is connected to the corresponding spoke by a pivoting attachment.
25. (Previously Presented) A wheel according to claim 2, wherein said rim is adapted such that the plurality of nipples face into an inflation chamber of the tire.
26. (Withdrawn) A wheel according to claim 2 further comprising sealing means disposed adjacent the thread of the holes in said rim and the thread on the shank of said nipples.
27. (Withdrawn) A wheel according to claim 2 in which said nipples comprise a hole into which a respective threaded end of a stem of the spoke is screwed and retained.
28. (Withdrawn) A wheel according to claim 2 in which said nipples comprise a threaded stem screwed into and retained in a respective threaded hole made in the end of the spoke facing them.
29. (Previously Presented) A wheel according to claim 2 in which said spoke has a light alloy stem.
30. (Withdrawn) A wheel according to claim 2 in which said spoke has a steel stem.